

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5017

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WA PBOR SF AO ZA MPOL

SUBJ: NAMIBIA BORDER INCIDENTS: SWAPO REPORTEDLY DISRUPTED

REF: PRETORIA 3172

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WINDHOEK PRESS REPORTED THAT TOP-LEVEL MILITARY CONFERENCE
HAD BEEN HELD IN WINDHOEK JULY 21 TO REVIEW THE MAJOR
CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY SECURITY AND MILITARY FORCES FROM
MID- JUNE TO MID-JULY AGAINST SWAPO INFILTRATORS.
MEETING ATTENDED BY MAJOR GENERAL C.L. VILJOEN,
CHIEF OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY AND MAJOR GENERAL
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I.R. GLEESON, DESCRIBED AS "OVERALL COMMANDER OF

SECURITY FORCES IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA". PAPER SPECULATED THAT SWAPO HAD LOST SOMEWHERE IN VICINITY OF 600 MEN DURING PAST THREE MONTHS AS CONSEQUENCE THREE SEPARATE SERIES OF EVENTS; FIRSTLY, ENCOUNTERS WITH SAG FORCES; SECONDLY, ZAMBIAN ACTIONS AGAINST SWAPO DISSIDENTS SEEKING TO DISLODGE SAM NUJOMA FROM LEADERSHIP, AND FINALLY, IN CLASHES WITH CUBAN-BACKED MPLA TROOPS TRYING TO FLUSH OUT UNITA GUERRILLAS IN AREAS NEAR ANGOLAN BORDER WHERE SWAPO HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH UNITA. GENERAL SITUATION DURING PAST WEEK TO TEN DAYS WAS DESCRIBED BY PRESS AS EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET, "NOT A SINGLE INCIDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED FOR SOME DAYS". NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS MADE BY SOUTH AFRICANS ON ZAMBIAN ALLEGATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK, THOUGH WINDHOEK PRESS JOINTED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS IN PRINTING SUBSTANCE OF ZAMBIAN ALLEGATIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. WITHIN PRETORIA DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY THERE IS STRONG IMPRESSION THAT GOOD DEAL OF CONFUSION REIGNS ALONG NORTHERN BORDERS OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. ALL ASSUME THAT SAG FORCES HIT SWAPO BASE IN ZAMBIA AT A TIME WHEN NUJOMA--SHIPANGA QUARRELING HAD ALMOST PARALYZED SWAPO'S MILITARY WING. SOME ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE ACTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL SAG MILITARY COMMANDERS UNDER STANDING ORDERS, WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH PRETORIA, SINCE SAG HAS APPEARED TO ENDORSE USE OF "HOT PURSUIT" TACTICS. THERE ARE INTIMATIONS THAT SHIPANGA MAY IN FACT HAVE INFORMED SAG FORCES OF LIKELIHOOD OF NUJOMA'S PRESENCE AT CAMP, WHICH WAS THEN ATTACKED AS CONSEQUENCE OF TIP.

3. A DIPLOMAT WITH GOOD CONTACTS IN SAG MILITARY SAID THAT SAG HAS IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS CLASHES BETWEEN MPLA/CUBAN TROOPS AND SWAPO IN ANGOLAN TERRITORY. MANY SWAPO GUERRILLAS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH UNITA IN THE PAST, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN EFFORTS TO REDUCE UNITA PRESENCE, ANYTHING RESEMBLING MILITARY OR GUERRILLA CAMP IN ANGOLA IS BEING TARGETTED BY MPLA, ESPECIALLY IF PRECISE NATURE OF ESTABLISHMENT IS NOT CLEARLY KNOWN OR IDENTIFIED TO MPLA THROUGH ITS LIAISON WITH SWAPO. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITION TO THIS REPORT, THERE ARE GENERAL REMORS THAT CUBANS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY SAG ACTIONS AGAINST SWAPO. THE SOURCE AND ACCURACY OF SUCH REPORTS CANNOT CLEARLY BE ESTABLISHED.

4. WINDHOEK PRESSMEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT SAG IS MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO SPLIT SWAPO IN AN EFFORT TO MORE CLEARLY ISOLATE THOSE HARD-LINE ELEMENTS AFFILIATED WITH

MPLA FROM OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO TAKE PART IN NEW
INTERIM ADMINISTRATION IN SWA WHICH WOULD BE PREDOMINANTLY
BLACK. PAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT HERERO CHIEF CLEMENS
KAPUUNO IS PLAYING LEADING ROLE IN NEW ROUND OF OVERSEAS
DISCUSSIONS AND CONTACTS, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO CONTACT
SWAPO SPOKESMEN IN LONDON, BUT ARTICLES DO NOT SPECULATE
FURTHER ON HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE IN ANY INTERIM
ADMINISTRATION.
BOWDLER

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